

Preface

This is the eighth issue of the annual Statistical Yearbook of Ireland (which replaced the former Statistical Abstract). This Yearbook is also available in electronic format on the CSO website and can be downloaded free of charge at www.cso.ie/releasespublications/statistical_yearbook_ireland_2008.htm.

It contains tables and graphs compiled by the Central Statistics Office as well as statistical information derived from the administrative work of Government Departments, Semi-State Bodies and Local Authorities.

The tables in this Yearbook were prepared during August 2008 and, in general, they contain details relating to the year 2007. Some of these results are provisional and are subject to revision. In many cases, particularly for sub-annual time series, more recent results can be obtained from the CSO's specific subject-matter releases and publications.

A variety of data relating to Northern Ireland is contained in the appendix; caution should be exercised when comparing these tables with those of the Republic as collection methodology may differ.

The latest statistics are issued by the Central Statistics Office in statistical releases as soon as they become available. Full information on all published statistics is provided in the annual 'Guide to CSO Publications and Information Services', which is available free on our website and on request.

The CSO's Internet site www.cso.ie contains a wide range of statistics and information on many topics relating to the office itself and the statistics it compiles and disseminates. All statistical releases are published on the Internet at the time of issue.

The Central Statistics Office would like to thank other Government Departments and Organisations and Government Departments in Northern Ireland, for their co-operation in supplying material for this Yearbook.

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Definitions and Conventions

Technical notes

Each chapter of this Statistical Yearbook is preceded by technical notes which should be read in conjunction with the appropriate tables.

Rounding of figures

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Symbols

The following symbols have been used throughout the volume:

- n/a Data not available.
- Magnitude nil or negligible.
- * Sample size too small for a reliable estimate.
- # Confidential.

Metric conversions

kg	=	kilogram = 2.2046 lbs
tonne	=	metric ton = 0.9842 tons
ha	=	hectare = 2.4711 acres
litre	=	0.2200 gallons

Average annual exchange rate - Units of Pound Sterling (GBP) per euro

1999	0.6587
2000	0.6095
2001	0.6219
2002	0.6288
2003	0.6920
2004	0.6787
2005	0.6838
2006	0.6817
2007	0.6843

Source: European Central Bank